

# **Annual Sampling and Cleanup Update**

EPA Information Center; 501 Mineral Avenue; Libby, MT 59923 - (406) 293-6194 DEQ Troy Information Center; 303 N. Third St.; Troy, MT 59935 - (406) 295-9238 Environmental Resource Specialist - (406) 291-5335

**April 2007** 

### **Operable Units**

EPA divides its large Superfund sites into separate Operable Units or "OUs." This is done to make the project easier to manage, because certain segments of the project are so different from the others (e.g., residential vs. the mine), because of geographic separation (e.g., Troy vs. Libby), or because certain cleanup activities present such diverse challenges (e.g., Processing Areas vs. residential).

At the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site, EPA first concentrated on cleaning up businesses and residences in Libby because that's where the greatest concentration of people are and where the major sources of contamination were located – this is OU 4. We are pleased to report that this year work is continuing at the other Operable Units as well. We'll begin this annual update with a short report on our progress at OU 4 since that's where most of the past activity has been.

### **OU 4 – Residential & Commercial in Libby**

EPA's progress in 2006 far exceeded our expectations, having cleaned up 216 properties (for a project total of 794). Our 2007 construction season kicked off April 2<sup>nd</sup> as planned. EPA has targeted 160 (larger and more complicated) properties for clean up in Libby this year. In addition, EPA will continue and expand the Outdoor Ambient Air Sampling Program that began last October as well as initiate a series of indoor and outdoor Activity Based Sampling programs.

### **OU 7 - Sampling Begins in Troy**

Troy is Operable Unit 7 (OU7) of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the lead agency for OU 7 with Catherine LeCours serving as its Project Manager. Catherine has set up a new office in Troy at 303 N. Third St., phone number: (406) 295-9238. Tetra-Tech, DEQ's contractor, will circulate Access Agreements and begin sampling in April.

### OU 3 - The Mine

EPA hopes to begin its screening-level evaluation of the vermiculite mine this season. Our goals at the mine site are to delineate the contamination, define any ambient releases or concentrations, assess the migration and transport of the contamination, and then eliminate exposure pathways.

### **OUs 1, 2, 5, & 6 – Processing Areas**

OU 1 is the Export Plant; OU 2 is the Screening Plant, KDC Flyway/Bluffs, and associated areas; OU 5 is the Stimson Lumber Mill, and the BNSF Railway is OU 6. Our immediate goals at the Processing Areas include assessing previous work, deciding if additional work is needed, and considering future land use. This year we'll begin the data collection for the Remdial Investigation/ Feasibility Study.

## There's a New Guy in Town

There's a new service available to residents in the Troy and Libby areas: the Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS). The ERS can be reached during regular business hours and emergencies at 406-291-5335.

The ERS can offer on-the-spot answers to your questions if you run into vermiculite, which is likely to contain Libby Amphibole Asbestos, when you're remodeling or doing yard work. It's also a good idea to consult with the ERS before you begin a project on your property. The ERS position will remain after EPA finishes its work to continue to answer your questions should you encounter vermiculite on your property or in your home.



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## Libby Project Timeline – 2002 to 2007

### 2002

- Most cleanup of WR Grace facilities, schools, and public areas completed
- EPA announces decision to clean residential properties including vermiculite insulation
- Libby added to Superfund list
- 3000+ properties inspected and sampled during the CSS
- 26 residential cleanups completed

### 2003

- 1200+ properties inspected or sampled
- EPA publishes interim cleanup standards and protocols
- 157 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- City boat ramp cleanup completed

### **2004**

- 170 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- EPA announces it will include Troy in the cleanup
- Cleanup of BNSF rail yard completed
- Cleanup of Flyway
- property completedNew cleanup

### 2005

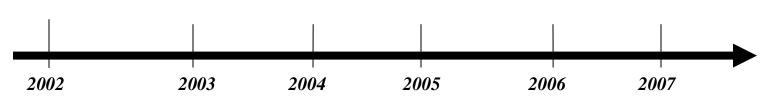
- 225 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- Special sampling to verify protectiveness of cleanup
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study underway
- Begin initial coordination for 2006 Troy investigations

### 2006

- 216 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study underway
- Outdoor Ambient Air sampling program initiated.

### 2007

- 160 large and complicated properties targeted.
- Outdoor Ambient Air sampling program in progress.
- Activity Based Sampling program initiated.
- Toxicity Studies identified for Baseline Risk Assessment.



**Questions?** Please visit or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Avenue in Libby (406-293-6194), or call the following EPA staff toll free:

- Mike Cirian, On-Site Project Manager 406-293-6194

- **Paul Peronard**, Libby Team Leader 1-800-227-8917 x6808

**Ted Linnert**, Community Involvement Coordinator 1-800-227-8917 x6119